

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09335 110144Z

73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /129 W

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R 101534Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6114

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR

SUBJ: LOW-KEY STATEMENTS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET TREATY  
WITH INDIA

1. THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY FOR PEACE,  
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WAS MARKED BY PRO FORMA STATEMENTS  
BY INDIAN OFFICIALS AND RELATIVELY RESTRICTED PRESS COVERAGE.  
MRS GANDHI IN A MESSAGE TO THE USSR (GIVEN ALMOST NO PRESS  
PLAY) SAID THE TREATY "CONTRIBUTED IN ITS OWN WAY TO THE FOSTER-  
ING OF A GENERAL CLIMATE OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING." SHE  
LOOKED FORWARD TO "GREATER ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTERCHANGE  
TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE" AND NOTED "MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR INTER-  
NATIONAL PEACE" HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE USSR.

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2. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS POSED BY TASS, FOREIGN MINISTER

SWARAN SINGH MADE ROUTINE REFERENCES TO THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SOVIET CHARGE BOLDYREV'S STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN THE NATIONAL HERALD (NEHRU FAMILY-OWNED) WAS NOTABLE ONLY FOR REFERENCES TO THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO THE US BEING WELCOMED BY INDIAN SPOKESMEN AND FOR A COMMENT THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA HAD FOUND SUPPORT IN "RESPONSIBLE QUARTERS" IN INDIA. (IN FACT, THE GOI HAS NOT SUPPORTED THE SOVIETS ON THE SUBJECT.) CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT S.D. SHARMA, FRESH FROM A VISIT TO MOSCOW, OPENED A HOUSE OF SOVIET CULTURE EXHIBIT WITH A SPEECH WHICH CALLED THE TREATY A "FLOWERING OF NEHRU'S GREAT VISION FOR INDIA", AND SAID THAT INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT "ARMS PEDDLERS" COULD NOT SUCCEED IN CREATING TENSION IN THE WORLD. DEFENCE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM, PLANNING MINISTER D.P. DHAR, EDUCATION MINISTER NURUL HASAN, AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL MINISTER D.K. BAROAH ALSO MADE BRIEF BUT INNOCUOUS REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO OTHER TASS QUERIES.

3. COMMENT: AS IS APPARENT, TASS AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY WORKED HARD TO GENERATE COMMENT. THERE WERE NO INDIAN-SPONSORED COMMEMORATIONS OF THE ANNIVERSARY AND, EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNIST PATRIOT, PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT WAS BRIEF AND BURIED.  
MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

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